

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending September 30, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

Blueberry Harvest Complete

Poor Pasture Growth Had Local Livestock Auctions Jumping

FIELD CROPS

Winter wheat seeding was slightly behind schedule, but neared completion in many areas of the state. Growers were very concerned about adequate seed zone moisture needed for planting and proper root development. Potato and onion harvests continued. Christmas tree growers continued trimming trees and priming equipment in preparation for harvest. Turfgrass growers experienced nearly ideal germination conditions for newly seeded fields. Corn silage was being harvested in many areas.

LIVESTOCK

Scattered precipitation offered little relief for producers searching for improved range and pasture conditions. Many ranchers sold livestock at local auctions in response to poor pasture growth and high feed costs. Dairy producers began harvesting corn silage in areas subject to heavy rainfall. The second cutting of timothy hay finished up in Kittitas County. Some areas were getting a fifth cutting of alfalfa hay. Range and pasture conditions were 20% very poor, 50% poor, 26% fair and 4% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Cranberry harvest continued with smaller than normal fruit size due to cool summer conditions. Blueberry harvest was complete. Cooler nighttime temperatures improved the eating quality of apples to be picked this week. Organic truck farmers reported excellent sales. U-Pick pumpkin farms were preparing to open ahead of schedule sometime next week. Commercial sweet corn producers geared up for harvest. Carrot harvest was underway in Grant County.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.0	6.9

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	30	47	23	-
Subsoil	25	54	21	-
Irrigation Water	10	5	85	-
Hay and Roughage	4	16	80	-

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	69	62	67	74
Winter Wheat Emerged	53	38	45	54
Potatoes Harvested	44	37	53	53
Dry Beans Harvested	53	37	62	59
Corn Harvested for Silage	57	38	55	59
Corn Harvested for Grain	4	1	3	1

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	5	95	-

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: Mid-week rain was very welcome, since conditions have been very dry. Cattle were being fed hay several weeks earlier than normal. Corn silage harvest should begin very soon.

Gray's Harbor: Heavy rain in the middle of the week was welcomed by most ag producers. Organic truck gardeners reported excellent sales of fall produce. Commercial artichoke growers were direct marketing artichokes at the farm for 3/\$1.00. Commercial dahlia growers were pleased that the growing season has gone this long without a killing frost. Christmas tree growers were preparing equipment for tree harvest. Livestock producers were seeding new pastures. Dairy producers were beginning to harvest corn for silage in fields, which were subject to muddy conditions if heavy rainfall occurs.

Grays Harbor/Lewis (2nd Report): A good series of rain showers would help rejuvenate pastures.

Pierce/South King: For the most part, conditions were good for crops in the Puget Sound area. There were no reports of any unusual situations or

crop damage.

Snohomish/ North King: The fall weather was normal, with a few daytime temperature above normal. Fall harvest of corn, pumpkins, and vegetables continued. Dairies got ready for corn silage harvest and continued nutrient management practices.

Thurston: A major rainstorm in the middle of the week was welcomed by most ag producers. Some areas of the county reported receiving nearly 3/4 of an inch of rain. This moisture helped to alleviate some of the drought stress that plants were exhibiting throughout the county. Blueberry harvest was complete. U-Pick pumpkin farms were gearing up to open next week. Christmas tree farmers were doing final grooming on trees in preparation for harvest. Dairy farmers were getting their equipment ready for silage corn harvest. Livestock producers were building temporary fences around hayfields for fall grazing. Commercial turfgrass growers were pleased with nearly ideal conditions for seed germination in newly planted fields.

CENTRAL

Franklin: Harvest continued for apples, asparagus, carrots, potatoes, and sweet corn. The weather was generally warm, although there was scattered rain during the week.

Grant: Fall field fumigation began. Field dessication continued, delayed by the grounding of aircraft. Buckwheat blooming neared completion. The fifth cutting of alfalfa hay was in progress and the fourth cutting was complete. The growers in the buy-out can begin irrigation on October 1, not to exceed 10 percent of seasonal usage. Granny Smith, Golden and Red Delicious apple harvests began.

Kittitas: The second cutting of timothy hay was wrapped up. Much needed rain was received.

Yakima: Harvest of Red Delicious apples continued. Cooler evenings, over the past week, enhanced the eating quality of all apples to be harvested. Up until now, weather conditions that promote fruit color have been less than optimal throughout the Yakima Valley.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures ranged from 7 degrees below normal, to 11 degrees above normal, with .12 inches of rain. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Winter wheat emerged and was looking fair to good. Precipitation is going to be needed this fall to insure adequate root development.

Asotin/Garfield: A couple of rain showers were a welcomed change from the hot, dry weather. However, it will take much more precipitation to relieve the current drought. Most farmers have decided to go ahead and seed winter wheat, most dusting. Range remained in poor condition with reports of ranchers selling cattle early or feeding hay.

Lincoln: Most winter wheat seeding was complete except for a few areas in the northern end of the county. Winter wheat was in fair to good condition, but precipitation this fall will be needed for adequate root development.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Most harvest operations were complete throughout the county. While fall seeding was nearing completion, the lack of moisture for planting was a great concern to area farmers. A small, but measurable amount of rain with high winds was received during the week. The pasture and hay situation was still very distressed.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A little moisture was received last week. The precipitation varied by location, but reports of .25 to .1 inches was common—which is not enough to do much good. Winter wheat seeding was still behind schedule. Producers are waiting for rainfall in order to seed. Range and pasture conditions were getting worse without the fall moisture. Many ranchers were selling livestock at the local auctions due the poor condition of many pastures and the cost of feed. The forecast does not call for any rain.

Stevens: The county received a half inch of rain during the middle of the week. Cattle were being pulled from ranges, and calves were taken to market.

Whitman: Light showers and cooler temperatures arrived late in the week. Accumulated amounts were only .25 inches. Winter wheat planting gained momentum. Some deep seeded wheat following summer fallow emerged. Topsoil conditions remained dry, and grazing conditions were poor.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

October 1, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	39	66	55	0	36	0	0	0	0.42	-0.12	3	1.47	-0.47	76	7
Everett	44	73	57	2	49	10	2	1	0.97	0.41	2	1.15	-1.00	53	6
Hoquiam	42	75	57	-2	52	-7	4	-5	0.46	-0.48	2	0.84	-2.41	26	5
Kelso	39	75	58	1	58	3	9	0	0.81	0.18	2	0.89	-1.48	38	4
Olympia	36	77	56	2	46	10	6	6	0.53	-0.10	2	0.57	-1.69	25	4
Seattle-Tacoma	44	70	57	-2	50	-4	0	-7	0.56	0.07	2	0.72	-1.16	38	7
Shelton	33	70	55	-3	39	-11	2	-5	0.51	-0.27	2	0.72	-1.96	27	4
Tacoma	37	72	56	-2	45	-2	2	-5	0.10	-0.39	2	0.10	-1.83	5	2
Vancouver	44	83	61	5	80	29	16	9	0.67	0.16	2	0.68	-1.33	34	3
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	32	87	56	3	49	12	9	2	0.09	0.02	1	0.09	-0.40	18	1
Omak	35	88	58	6	61	26	15	8	0.37	0.23	2	0.37	-0.42	47	2
Stampede Pass	33	71	50	5	22	13	4	4	0.75	-0.20	3	1.09	-2.34	32	7
Wenatchee	42	83	60	2	73	11	18	1	0.08	0.01	1	0.08	-0.32	20	1
Yakima AP	35	88	58	2	56	7	12	0	0.14	0.07	1	0.14	-0.26	35	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	33	90	60	8	73	43	14	7	0.30	0.09	1	0.30	-0.83	27	1
Deer Park	28	87	56	3	48	10	11	3	0.23	0.05	1	0.44	-0.43	51	2
Spokane AP	38	86	59	5	65	25	17	9	0.17	0.03	2	0.17	-0.56	23	2
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	37	86	61	2	79	11	23	3	0.13	0.06	1	0.13	-0.23	36	1
Moses Lake	34	88	59	-1	67	-1	17	-3	0.02	-0.05	1	0.02	-0.34	6	1
Quincy	37	85	61	4	79	24	23	9	0.06	-0.01	1	0.06	-0.37	14	1
Ritzville	40	96	61	6	80	36	30	21	0.11	-0.03	1	0.11	-0.45	20	1
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	38	94	62	-2	87	-2	26	-7	0.13	0.06	1	0.13	-0.22	37	1
Pasco	34	93	61	2	81	11	20	0	0.03	-0.04	1	0.03	-0.33	8	1
Pullman	40	86	59	5	67	28	12	5	0.36	0.08	3	0.36	-0.64	36	3
Walla Walla AP	42	93	63	3	96	20	28	5	0.48	0.22	3	0.48	-0.47	51	3
Whitman Mission	33	94	60	3	71	19	17	5	0.28	0.07	3	0.28	-0.40	41	3
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	36	88	61	5	78	31	26	16	0.19	-0.08	2	0.25	-0.94	21	4
Lewiston ID	46	97	66	7	116	47	50	28	0.19	0.01	2	0.19	-0.59	24	2

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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